

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasuhiro MOURI, Toshisada KOYAMA

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: July 11, 2001

Docket No.: 110092

For: PIVOT ASSEMBLY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3-4 as follows:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

3. (Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 1, wherein a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings.
4. (Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 1, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other.

Please add new claims 5-7 as follows:

- 5. The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings. --

-- 6. The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other. --

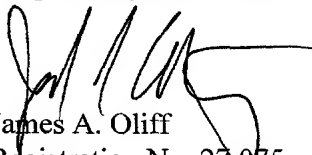
-- 7. The pivot assembly according to claim 3, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3-4 are amended and claims 5-7 are added to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: July 11, 2001

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| DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461 |
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 5-7 are added.

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

3. (Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings.
4. (Amended) The pivot assembly according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other.